

face of the Earth. And I'm the man with that honor.

Thank you for coming, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency

Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Hope Taft, wife of Governor Taft; Robert T. Bennett, chairman, Ohio Republican Party; and Tim Timken, finance chairman, Taft-Bradley Campaign. Mike Turner is a candidate for Congress in Ohio's Third Congressional District.

## Statement on the End of the Standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem *May 10, 2002*

I am pleased by the nonviolent end to the standoff at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Like the resolution to the situation in Ramallah, the positive result in Bethlehem was achieved through the efforts of a number of individuals and governments. In particular, I appreciate the efforts of personnel at our Embassy in Tel Aviv and our Consulate General in Jerusalem, which were critical to the outcome, and the work of the European Union.

The end of the standoff in Bethlehem is a positive development that removes an obstacle to restoring security cooperation between the parties and should advance the prospects for resuming a political process toward peace. As I said on April 4th, this can only happen if all parties assume their responsibilities for fighting terror and promoting peace.

## The President's Radio Address *May 11, 2002*

Good morning. Next week the United States House of Representatives is scheduled to debate a welfare reform plan that will touch the lives of millions of Americans. The last time Congress reformed welfare, in 1996, it put millions of Americans on the path to better lives.

Because of work requirements and time-limited benefits, welfare caseloads have dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty, including 2.8 million fewer children than in 1996. Yet, the real success of welfare reform is not found in the number of caseloads that have been cut but in the number of lives that have been changed.

I've traveled all across our Nation, and I've met people whose lives have been improved because of welfare reform. I have heard inspiring stories of hope and dignity and hard work and personal achievement. Yet, there are still millions of Americans trapped in dependence, without jobs and the dignity they bring. And now Congress must take the next necessary steps in welfare reform.

Compassionate welfare reform should encourage strong families. Strong marriages and stable families are good for children, so stable families should be a central aim of welfare policy. Under my plan, up to \$300 million per year will be available to